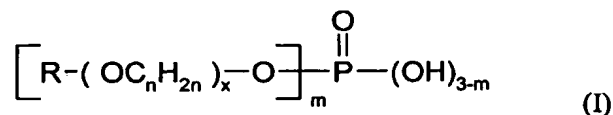


CLAIMS

## 1. Compounds of the formula (I)

5



where

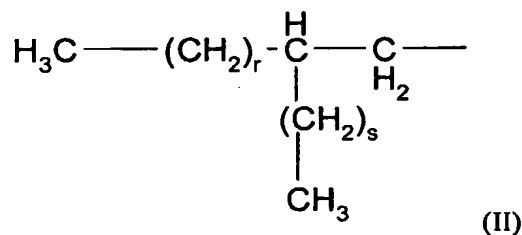
m is from 1 to 3,

10

n is 2 or 3,

x is from 6 to 8, and

R is a radical of the formula (II)



15

where

r is from 2 to 6,

s is from 0 to 4,

the sum total of (r + s) is from 5 to 7, and

20

the alkyl chains may in turn be linear or branched.

## 2. Compound according to Claim 1 wherein

m is from 1 to 2,

n is 2,

25

x is 7,

r is 4,

s is 2, and

the sum total of (r + s) is 6.

3. Process for preparing compounds of the formula (I) according to Claims 1 or 2, characterized in that a Guerbet alcohol R-OH, where R has the meaning of the formula (II), is alkoxyated and subsequently phosphated.
- 5 4. Process according to Claim 3, characterized in that a C<sub>10</sub>-Guerbet alcohol is reacted with ethylene oxide and then with phosphorus pentoxide.
5. Composition comprising in aqueous solution one or more compounds of the formula (I) according to Claims 1 or 2 and also further auxiliaries.
- 10 6. Composition according to Claim 5 comprising 40% to 70% by weight of compound (I), with 2% to 4% by weight being present in the form of the sodium salt, and 0.1% to 3.5% by weight of surfactants, biocides, defoamers or foam suppressants.
- 15 7. Process for producing a composition according to Claims 5 or 6, characterized in that the compound or compounds of the formula (I) and the further constituents are mixed in an aqueous medium.
- 20 8. Use of compounds of the formula (I) according to Claims 1 or 2 or of compositions according to Claims 5 or 6 for pretreating textiles.
9. Use according to Claim 8, characterized in that pretreatment comprises continuous or batch pretreatment operations under alkaline conditions.